GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2689
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2006
DEATH OF ANIMALS IN BIRSA ZOOLOGICAL PARK
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of animals in Birsa Zoological Park have died due to a killer disease;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Central Zoo Authority has since taken steps to ascertain the cause of the killer disease amongst animals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the preventive measures taken by the Ministry in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) The Ministry is aware of deaths of four tigers and one leopard in Birsa Zoological Park. The deaths of the animals took place between 9th July, 2006 and 20th July, 2006. All the large cats had died due to Babesiosis, a blood protozoan disease, which is spread due to tick bites.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The Central Zoo Authority had deputed the veterinarian from Rourkela Zoo and a veterinarian each from the Orissa Veterinary College, Bhubaneswar and Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Bareilly to the Birsa Zoological Park, Ranchi in investigation of the cause of the disease amongst the large cats as well as advise the zoo authorities to take necessary preventive measures for containing the spread of disease among other animals.

According to the advice given by the expert veterinarians and the Central Zoo Authority, the Birsa Zoological Park, Ranchi has taken necessary preventive action like improvement of the hygiene of the animal enclosures, administration of preventive vaccine to the animals and transferring excess number of lions and tigers to Rescue Centre at Visakhapatnam.